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## SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

THE twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Johns Hopkins University and the inauguration of Dr. Remsen as president of the university were celebrated at Baltimore on February 21 and 22. The commemorative address of Dr. D. C. Gilman, for twenty-five years president of the university, and now president emeritus and president of the Carnegie Institution, and the inaugural address of President Remsen are published above, as is also the list of those on whom honorary degrees were conferred. The assembly of eminent educators, scientific men and others at the exercises was one of the most notable that has gathered in America. One of the most interesting events was the presentation to Dr. Gilman of an address signed by over 1,000 alumni and others who are or have been connected with the university.

THE University of Pennsylvania has conferred the Doctorate of Laws on Professor Wolcott Gibbs.

AT the annual general meeting of the Royal Astronomical Society on February 14, the Society's gold medal was presented to Professor J. C. Kapteyn, of Gröningen, Holland, for his work in connection with the Cape Photographic Durchmusterung, and his researches on stellar distribution and parallax. The Jackson-Gwilt (bronze) medal and gift was presented to the Rev. Thomas D. Anderson, of Edinburgh, for his discovery of Nova Aurigæ and Nova Persei.

DR. T. J. J. SEE, U. S. Naval Observatory, has been elected to membership in the Deutsche Mathematiker-Vereinigung, and to the Société Mathématique de France.

DR. ERNST VON BERGMANN, professor of surgery at Berlin, was given the title of privy councillor on the Emperor's birthday.

PROFESSOR MAX GRUBER, of the University of Vienna, gave the Harben Lectures before the Royal Institute of Public Health in January, the subject being 'Bacteriolysis and Hemolysis.'

MR. WILLIAM MARCONI sailed for Canada on February 22 to continue his trans-atlantic experiments in wireless telegraphy.

MR. C. E. BORCHGREVINK, the antarctic explorer, is at present lecturing in the United States.

PROFESSOR DUCLAUX, director of the Pasteur Institute, Paris, suffered recently an attack of hemiplegia. After lying in a critical condition for a number of days, he is now improving.

THE papers note that a marble statue of Professor Ernst Haeckel is being made by the sculptor Harro Magnussen.

MR. JOHN ACKHURST, a taxidermist residing in Brooklyn, died on February 15 at the age of eighty-six years.

DR. E. SELENKA, professor of zoology at Munich, died on January 20, at the age of sixty years.

THERE will be a civil service examination on April 2 for the positions of plant pathologist, chemist, physiological chemist and analytical chemist in the Philippine service. The salaries of these positions are from \$1,500 to \$2,000. There will also be filled by civil service examination on the same day the position of agrostological clerk in the Bureau of Plant Industry at a salary of \$720.

MRS. GEORGE WHITFIELD COLLETT has contributed \$5,000 to the endowment fund of the New York Botanical Garden, in memory of the late Josiah M. Fiske.

THE laboratory for the investigation of cancer in Buffalo has been removed into the building donated through the generosity of Mrs. Gratwick.

PROFESSOR B. TIRUSCH has bequeathed to the Museum of Natural History at Prague his library and estate, valued at \$25,000. He had previously given numerous specimens to the zoological, botanical and geological sections of the Museum.

MR. DEBOE, of Kentucky, has introduced a bill in the Senate to establish a university of the United States. It provides that the grounds set aside by Washington for a university, lately occupied by the U. S. Naval Observatory, are to be used as the site.

THE Minnesota Seaside Station party of 1902 plans to leave Minneapolis on July 12, at the close of the meeting of the National Educational Association. It will proceed via the Canadian Pacific Railway to Vancouver, thence by steamer to Victoria and finally to Port Renfrew by coasting vessel. The party will return to Minneapolis about September 1, giving a month or more by the sea and ample time for stops in the Rockies and Selkirks, arrangements for which have been made with the railway. The following staff is expected to organize the work of instruction and, as far as necessary, research, during the term of station activity: Professor Conway MacMillan, M.A., director-in-chief and lecturer on algology (*Phaeophyceæ*); Professor Raymond Osburn, M.S., professor of zoology; Professor K. Yendo (Rigakushi), professor of algology (*Rhodophyceæ*); Miss Josephine E. Tilden, M.S., professor of algology (*Chlorophyceæ* and *Cyanophyceæ*).

THE annual report of Will. C. Ferrill, curator, State Historical and Natural History Society, Denver, Colorado, shows the following record for the past year. The additions to the library and historical collections were 1,159, and to the scientific collections, 3,425 specimens, making a total for the year of 4,584. This Society, which is both historical and scientific in its scope, now occupies fourteen rooms in the state house, and its museum was visited during the past year by 156,148 people. A valuable addition to the museum during the year was the Horace G. Smith Arapahoe County collection of about 650 birds, obtained in the vicinity of Denver. These, together with Colorado specimens obtained by Curator Ferril in field work, added to an older collection, now give the department of ornithology about 2,500 specimens of Colorado birds.

IT should have been stated in the issue of SCIENCE for February 14, page 269, that the original journals of Lewis and Clark will be published under the auspices of the American Philosophical Society.

A WRITER in the New York *Sun* states that the strange giant cactus, *Cereus giganteus*, is being exterminated by irrigation, and that

many years will not elapse before extinction has taken place. This is probably an extreme view of the case, for there must be many localities, comprising vast areas of land, where irrigation will not only not be attempted, but be impossible, and here the weird-looking plant may hold its own. The species attains a height of sixty feet and, contrary to popular belief, is short lived. Moisture is fatal to it and as soon as it receives a constant supply rapid decay sets in and destroys the plant.

AFTER being cut off from communication with the outside world for two and a half years in hitherto unexplored parts of mid-Asia, Dr. Sven Hedin, the Swedish explorer, reached India towards the close of December. In an outline of his expedition the London *Times* says that reaching Andijan by the Transcaspian Railway in the middle of 1899, he traveled to Kashgar on horseback, and from thence sailed down the river Tarim, or Yarkunddarja, to Lob Nor, in the heart of Eastern, or Chinese, Turkestan. Making this place on the shores of the lake of the same name his headquarters, he took excursions of varying length through the Gobi Desert and over the great range of the Shian Shan mountains. Out of the 6,000 miles thus traveled only some 500 miles were along the tracks of earlier wanderers, all the rest having been unexplored. He discovered a series of ruined cities of Chinese and Mongolian origin, about 800 years old, and found in them some extraordinary sculptures and some ancient manuscripts of an extremely rare description. These cities would, he said, throw an altogether new light on questions affecting the distribution of the various human races and the migratory movements of Asiatic peoples. He went through the whole of the northern and central parts and a portion of Eastern Tibet, and through the great Gobi Desert in Western China. His last and most prolonged journey was right across Tibet, first from north to south and then from south to west. He proposed to publish three 'rather ponderous tomes of a scientific nature,' but he would first compile a large book for popular reading giving a description of his travels. He had taken over 4,000 photographs and numerous sketches. In scientific results this

was far and away the most important journey he had ever made, and he expressed his gratitude to King Oscar, and to some friends interested in scientific research for placing the means at his disposal for the journey.

*The Geographical Journal* states that it has lately been announced that an expedition, under the command of Lieutenant Héron, and including several other officers on its staff, was to leave Marseilles for Indo-China on January 12. Its object is to complete our knowledge of the coasts of Indo-China by accurate surveys, and to study the distribution of terrestrial magnetism in that region, besides carrying out general investigations in matters relating to hydrography and navigation. It sails under the orders of the Minister of Marine.

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#### UNIVERSITY AND EDUCATIONAL NEWS.

THE gift of Mr. John D. Rockefeller to the Harvard Medical School of \$1,000,000 was conditional on \$765,000 being collected to meet the sum required for the removal and rebuilding of the school. Of this sum about \$600,000 has been subscribed in two weeks.

THE executors of the will of the late Jonas D. Clark have agreed to transfer \$800,000 to Clark University for the establishment of a collegiate department.

BUCHTEL COLLEGE at Akron, Ohio, has received an unconditional gift of \$20,000.

THE directors of the Pennsylvania Railroad have given \$5,000 to the fund for the rebuilding of the University of Wooster, destroyed by fire on December 11.

A BILL is now before the New York Legislature, appropriating \$200,000 for new buildings for the College of Agriculture at Cornell University.

THE State Department has notified President Butler, of Columbia University, of the receipt of a despatch from Minister Conger at Pekin, which gives full information regarding the gift of books and other material to illustrate the instruction in Chinese subjects to be undertaken under the new Dean Lung or Charpentier foundation at the

University. The collection selected by the Foreign Office of China for presentation to Columbia is known as the T'u Shu Chi Ch'eng, a standard collection of ancient and modern works. It is the most comprehensive ever made in China and consists of more than 6,000 volumes, divided into thirty-two classes in which all facts regarding China are recorded and classified, all sources of information and all authorities cited and discussed.

IT is announced that hereafter students of the medical school of Yale University may complete the course in three years if they elect the necessary preliminary studies in the academic department.

DR. CHAS. H. JUDD, professor of psychology in the University of Cincinnati, has received a call to Yale University.

DR. J. W. MOORE, professor of physics, has been appointed dean of the Pardee Scientific Department of Lafayette College, succeeding the late Dr. T. C. Porter.

DR. W. F. SNOW has been made acting-head of the department of hygiene at Stanford University.

MR. S. E. BRASEFIELD has been appointed instructor in civil engineering in Lafayette College.

THE Universities of St. Petersburg, Kieff and Kharkoff have been closed, owing to the difficulties between the students and the authorities.

THE Government has dismissed all the European professors at the Imperial University of Pekin, and Dr. Martin, the president, has been offered a subordinate position.

MR. F. T. TRONTON, M.A., F.R.S., has been appointed to the Quain chair of physics in University College, London.

MR. FREDERICK PURSER, fellow of the College, has been elected to the chair of natural philosophy in Trinity College, Dublin, lately vacated by Dr. Tarleton.

MR. GEORGE REYNOLDS, M.A., F.R.S., professor of engineering in the Owens College, Manchester, has been appointed to the office of Rede Lecturer at Cambridge University for the present year.